Dear Howard, 7/31/72 (second)

This afterthought, of which I'll put a carbon in my Cyril file but will not, as with the others, distribute to critics, not even Dick, is intended for a number of purpose. CW's apparent intention to spend his time on other t ings, which I candidly believe will be a conscious theft of what I have done, is what triggers it. I want you and others to understand a number of thing, how neither he nor they have the slightest idea of what he and they helping him are into, how totally unprepared even in thought any is, how unserious his purposes have to be regarded. and what all of this means in terms of the first non-sycophantic examination of this contracted mateerial. To make it comprehensible, I'm eliminating all the other stuff that could be studied, although I don't expect it to show what I do not already have written and copyrighted, not in any significant way. I'm limiting to what he can do in the one day he intends to devote to the access he has been granted to what everyone else regards as boundless evidentiary treasure if he then restricts himself to the film only. I can t take the time for checking all the figures for you, but I have looked at the contract list. Let us, for the sake of argument, say there are 50 picture negatives. Let us say that he'll spend a full eight hours just studying them. Not making a list, notes, comparing inventories, comparing with the two existing signed lists of which we know, comparing with the contract. Nothing at all that can and should be the kind of thing he should and if he is at all responsible must do to make a record for himself or any other purpose. Let me just restrict this to looking at each pice of film and print.

In a working day there are 480 minutes if he can spend 100% of that time working. Forget that it will take some time to get the stuff out, to get started, to put it away, all of that and say he actually spends every minut of the 480 studying this film. The simple arithmetic is that he will then be spending less than 2 minutes on each! Less than two minutes! Think of it, and then ask the slef-anointed omniscient, no one of whom would engaged in any kind of a dialogue with me, to consider this. If Cyril has done the absolute <u>leagt</u> he can do in preparation, he has to have at the <u>very</u> least have taken a glance at the contract to see what he can see, no? Well, from the contract alone-and it doesn't itemize the film of pictures - there are, with the number 50 for this film, admittedly arbitrary but close enough for simple arithmetic. 262 separate items of autopsy pictures anf film alone to see. Is this not less than two minutes each, not alowing for handling, conversation, problems that are inevitable with no hankypanky and some of the things noted above? There are an acknowledged 14 X-rays and 29 prints of them, and a total of 183 separate prints of the pictures, not counting the pictures and the problems of which you and I know to be resolved about them. Now, can you, Sylvia, Gary, Jerry or any rational or only slightly irrational person thing any decent study -no records, no inventory, no thought - just looking at -this can be even minimal examination of the ~~pkkx~~ film alone? Can you really say he <u>can</u> have the kind of serious intentions all t he others assume? When you add to this the minimum by way of a record, inventories, comparisons of lists and inventories, measurements, notes and other thing indispensible for any serious scholarship and all the other time required for any serious, competent examination of the other contract materials, can you wonder at what may be assumed to be my paranoid view by others who have messed in unilaterally, without thought of consultataion or worse, rejecting it, that his real intentions in spending time in other things is the deliberate theft of my work to appear in some scientific journal over his name? If I can't be sure this is his intent, is it reasonable to ignore the possibility? Remember, he has the contract. He asked me, not the Times or the Archives for it, so he has done nothing by way of sericus preparation or he lacks serious purposes on the basis of two minutes minus per peice as above.

Compare this with one of my many examinations of just the clothing pictures to give yourself an idea of what real study of pictures does require. You know that I did what Cyril has never done, spent enormous time on each piece of this evidence outside the Archives, and much there prior to the time I will recount. I digress to note that his genuineness and seriousness seems to be reflected by these years of absence from the Archives, but those so anxious to regard him and his interest as a second coming may continue to consider him the world's only really busy person. Well, with all the background I had in my head, from all the study I had earlier made of what was in the Archives and what I had~~d~~ that was not, I spent an entire morning really studying no more than and probably less than six rpints! No negatives for comparison, just these very few 8x10s. It is recorded in

the last part of PM, as you may recall. Now assume

Here I was interruped for a long time on a matter I'll address separately. It is now 2:15 p.m. and I'll try to pick up my thoughts from the point at which they were suddenly wrneched into the distant past.

I think I intended to reason thus: assume I am rather dense and slow and Cyril quick and much brighter and better informed, unless I scratched my ass all that time, either the proper examination of this kind of picture does require considerable time and thought or I just wasted my time or Cyril can't begin to do what he pretends is his purpose or what can't be much less unwelcome to those of great passion and zero thought, hasn't the remotest idea of what he is getting into and has either thought it through or planned it in any mature, responsible, aduly or professional way, take your own choice. And this is quite separate from any political aspects or thought of possible end products other than what he and the others think is all that is possible.

On the other side, if he has and has the schedule you indicate, then one possibility that can't be avoided is that when he restircts himself to two days and is to spend the first on this and the second on other things, these other things have to be one of two: what he could and should have dpne long before this is he is at all serious and unselfish about this and a deliberate plan to steal my work. If you or anyone else can come up with a rational and serious alternative, I welcome it

I can't continue this because I must get to other things and I expect a callback from the person who phoned earlier.

I recap a few things because I do not restrict you on this. I am not distributing it but I have no objection to your doing it if for what you would regard as a constructive purpose, for a reason or reasons other than arguing and fighting, the time for which has long since passed.

As you know, despite my objections to the current ploy, I have to this moment not told Cyril I would not help him. I have, rather, said two things: that I do not consider that my association with something I consider wrong can make it right; and that situations change and wth these changes, open minds and attitides must chancge, so that any final decision would have to await the coming of the time.

Despite my objecthons to what is about to happen, I have done nothing to impede it, have maintained a scrupulous public silence and have, in fact, done all that I can to avoid the possibilty I consider a probability without circumstances I can anticipate, misuse and an adverse press reaction.

Unlike what I would presume to be a rather determined effort on the other side to influence you, I have encouraged you to follow your own conscience in this affair and have assured you that you must do what I dontt want you to if you consider that right for you, accompanying this assurance with one that it would change nothing between us. From the very first, as I am sure you will recall, what has been foremost in my mind is what can be done to counteract any counterproductivity. From experience I know this means what I can do, and I have not misled you into thinking (or myself) that I have any special influence or magic. If the government wants what is about to happen, it, inevitably, will happen. How it happens and with whom it could not completely control and now we can't.

And whether or not you know it, and if you make any distribution of this it will be a challenge, none not of the principals has made direct response to those things I address to them, two have responded to my last letters to them (and I think now can't honestly), and what I have gotten, basically unresponsive and irrelevant as all is, ranges from whining to subjuvenile self-justification. If this seems like a harsh judgement to you, you know that my files are open save for what is marked confidential and you can reach your own judgement on mine.

The terrible need for haste,